

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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### **DARE COUNTY ANNOUNCES OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARDS FOR 2003**

**MANTEO, N.C.**— The North Carolina Commission of Volunteerism and Community Service's Volunteer Center in Dare County, Dare Voluntary Action Center (DVAC), today awarded five volunteers whose tireless efforts have improved the quality of life for residents in their community.

The awards were given at a breakfast at the Dunes Restaurant sponsored by Dare Mortgage Services, Inc., Bank of America, Harrell & Associates, and the Manteo Rotary Club.

The Dare County Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Awards were established in 1996 as a way to recognize the service of those in Dare County.

Volunteers receiving awards include: Bonnie Szemereta, Walton Fulcher, Donna Natole, Dr. Karen Beck, and Lou Browning.

"These five individuals have demonstrated what it takes to be leaders in their communities," said Governor Mike Easley. "These people deserve special recognition not only because they give so much back to their communities but through their service they are fostering an ethic of service and goodwill."

**Bonnie Szemereta** has been volunteering with Cape Hatteras Elementary School for more than five years. During the past two years, Szemereta has volunteered at the school everyday. She tutors students needing assistance, provides clerical support in the administrative office, and plans special events and field trips for the school. She has also been generous with her resources, supplying individual students and classroom teachers with supplies, books, and materials to facilitate learning at Cape Hatteras Elementary School.

**Walton Fulcher** founded the Cape Hatteras Men's Emergency Assistance Program in 1978. Since then, the program has distributed \$361,000 to assist the people of Hatteras Island. The organization has been a central force in helping families after hurricanes and in other times of need. In 1990, after the dredge struck the Bonner Bridge, Fulcher started the Hatteras Island Food Pantry as a partner to the emergency assistance program. Since then, the pantry has helped almost 3,000 people with more than 120,000 meals, having a monetary value of \$172,000.

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